

- version start and end date/time
 - identity of the user executing a version
 - pointer references to the document component fields effected by version executions
 - 5 • the workflow step associated with the document version
 - unique numerical element identity
 - pointer reference to Element Version Metadata
 - pointer reference to documents in the archive in which the element appears
 - 10 • pointer reference to associated element properties
 - pointer reference to associated element values
 - indication of the element's status as a design standard element
 - unique numerical element version identity
 - pointer reference to associated Element Metadata
 - 15 • workflow step associated with the element version
 - element category
 - element size pointer reference
 - element shape construction type
 - pointer reference to applicable element property values
 - 20
- The invention includes methods, devices and processes, which:
1. Convert documents to be imported to the invention's base document file format as the first step of the invention's import process;
 2. Parse the base document file format of documents being imported in accordance with the invention's document object model;
 - 25 3. Enable users to establish circumstances, characteristics and criteria associated with objects being imported and/or object relationships so as to determine the nature of the invention's analysis and comparison of importing documents;
 - 30 4. Enable users to establish information, derived from the invention's analysis and comparison of documents being imported that will be

reported, distributed and archived in the invention's document object model archive;

5. Enable users to establish the circumstances, intervals and distribution lists that are to be applied to reports derived from the invention's analysis and comparison of documents being imported;
6. Enable users to establish rules and standards to used as the basis of differentiating, clarifying, correcting and eliminating redundancies associated with objects and object relationships derived from imported documents prior to their being archived in the invention's document object model archive;
7. Enable users to establish circumstances, characteristics and criteria, derived from the invention's analysis and comparison of imported documents and relating to user-established rules and standards, whereupon object and object relationship differentiation, clarification, correction and redundancy elimination will be effected by manual or automated means;
8. Enable users to access, view, edit, manipulate, replace, print, compile and download objects and object relationships contained in the invention's document object model archive;
9. Enable users to establish security-related privileges and rules effecting the invention's allowing or disallowing individual users or groups of users to access, view, edit, manipulate, replace, print, compile and download objects and object relationships and the invention's generated reports contained in the invention's document object model archive;
10. Enable users to establish circumstances, characteristics and criteria associated with instances of user's accessing, viewing, editing, manipulating, replacing, printing, compiling and downloading archived objects and object relationships to be contained in reports generated, distributed and archived by the invention to facilitate managing the invention's use;

11. Enable users to establish circumstances, characteristics and criteria associated with instances of user's editing, manipulating, replacing, compiling and downloading archived objects and object relationships to be contained in reports generated, distributed and archived by the invention to facilitate the management of object and object relationship versions over time; and
12. Enable users to establish rules and standards for the number of instances of user's editing, manipulating, replacing, compiling and downloading archived objects and object relationships that are to be retained in the invention's import reconciliation records.

Numerous other advantages and features of the present invention will become readily apparent from the following detailed description of the invention and the embodiments thereof, from the claims and from the accompanying drawings.

Brief Description of the Drawings:

Fig. 1 is an over-all block diagram of a system in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is an over-all block and functional diagram of the system in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a flow diagram illustrating aspects of document import processing in accordance with the present invention; and

Fig. 4 illustrates a data structure usable in the system of Figs. 1, 2;

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments:

While this invention is susceptible of embodiment in many different forms, there are shown in the drawing and will be described herein in detail specific embodiments thereof with the understanding that the present disclosure is to be considered as an exemplification of the principles of the invention and is not intended to limit the invention to the specific embodiments illustrated.

While a system and method are is described herein, at times in terms of PostScript-type inputs and outputs, it will be understood that these references are